

# PLANNING AHEAD

## Notes for the Planning Community

Volume 1, Issue 5

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#### Stockton's Statement

*Steve is busy preparing for his move to SPD and will share his parting thoughts with us in the next issue.*



#### A Word From The Editor

*Harry Kitch – CECW-PC*

Last month we asked for examples of using the Web to improve our ability to provide vital information. Dave Schmidt sent us an example of their work for the CERB. You can find out more in the next article below.

Remember that you can find this and past issues at:

<http://www.usace.army.mil/inet/functions/cw/cecwp/news.htm> ❖

#### WEB Page for CERB Meeting

*David Schmidt – CESAJ*

This is in response to your request in the subject newsletter for new approaches to reaching our customers via web sites.

Thought you might like to visit the web page (see below) we set up for the Coastal Engineering Research Board (CERB) meeting held last week [13-14 May] in Ft. Lauderdale, FL. BG VanAntwerp really liked the site, and asked us to let others in the Corps know about it. Sharon Hanks at WES plans to use the site as a guide for future meetings. It saved us a

lot of time and energy. We used the study and project fact sheets posted there on poster displays as handouts, and included them in the field trip background material in the notebooks handed to participants.

<http://www.saj.usace.army.mil/pd/cerb>



## Planning Awards

*Steve Siegel – CECW-P*

CECW-P

### MEMORANDUM FOR [MSC's]

SUBJECT: 1997 Planning Excellence Award and the Outstanding Planning Achievement Award

1. I am pleased to announce the results of the 1997 Planning Excellence Award and Outstanding Planning Achievement Award.

2. The Planning Excellence Award for 1997 is awarded to Ms. Carol Hollaway of the Galveston District for her work on developing and utilizing innovative methodologies for evaluating project benefits. Ms. Hollaway is commended for her efforts in developing and conducting the analysis of various buyout plans for the Cypress Creek project. She has also demonstrated her initiative and technological skill by providing electronic pictures of the structures involved in the buyout plans so that participants in a critical teleconference could better understand the project.

3. The 1997 Planning Achievement Award goes to the Beargrass Creek Feasibility Team, Louisville District. The Team was responsible for carrying out a study to reduce flood damages along Beargrass Creek in Louisville, Kentucky. Their pioneering efforts began with the preparation of a developing a model Project Study Plan guided the study to completion within the original schedule in spite

of complex formulation issues. They went on to incorporate an independent technical review team from start to finish. They were able to resolve technical issues and questions during the study thereby improving the quality and timeliness of the final product. The study team also pioneered the use of the alternative formulation briefings to complete the formulation process. In addition to pioneering process improvements, the team also stretched the state of the art in formulation to address multiple detention basins and to incorporate risk and uncertainty analyses.

4. These individuals are to be commended for their individual and team contributions. Please pass along my congratulations on jobs well done.

//s//

STEVEN L. STOCKTON, P.E.  
Acting Chief, Planning Division  
Directorate of Civil Works

## Challenge 21: Flood Hazard Mitigation and Riverine Ecosystem Restoration Program

*Cheryl A. Smith – CECW-PD*

The Challenge 21 Initiative is gaining interest and support around the nation. On Capital Hill, OASA (CW) and HQ have been working with the Appropriations and House and Senate Authorizing Committees, answering questions and responding to concerns about the FY99 budget proposal and the WRDA '98 provision. Interest across the nation has been generated to a large extent through meetings Michael Davis, OASA (CW), has conducted with special interests groups and potential local sponsors. Word was also spread through a session on Challenge 21, which was part of the recent Water Environment Federation Watershed Management Conference in Denver. On the local level, a

number of Districts have reported meetings with sponsors and partners during which Challenge 21 was an agenda topic.

*So, what is Challenge 21?* It is an initiative that represents the Army's proposal to integrate the lessons of repeated regional flooding and the principals of ecosystem restoration within the Civil Works program. The purpose is to develop efficient and effective measures that prevent flood damages, restore the natural resource values of riverine systems and have strong local support. It expands the use of non-structural flood hazard mitigation options, combining them with restoration of the functions and values of riverine ecosystems. The program will encompass planning through implementation, build on existing programs and initiatives, use a watershed approach, and initiate and expand partnerships with other Federal agencies (particularly FEMA, NCRS, EPA and USFWS) and non-Federal public entities. Cost sharing will be 50-50 for studies and 65% Federal and 35% non-Federal for design and construction.

*What is eligible for Challenge 21?* All floodplains are eligible. Typically, studies and/or projects will be undertaken in areas where frequent or severe flooding has occurred, emergency assistance has been necessary, flood hazards have increased due to changes in hydrologic & hydraulic regimes, development is encroaching on floodplains, important floodplain functions and values need maintenance or restoration, or substantial differences exist between planned and actual development in watersheds.

*How are proposals accepted into the program?* Prior to the announcement of the President's budget, an informal survey of potential candidates was conducted. More than 50 potential candidates were submitted. Since that time additional candidates have been forwarded to CECW-PD and are still being accepted. The intent of the survey was to identify program potential (the range and interest) as well as to gather information to be used for program development. When we

receive the "go ahead" for the program, Districts will be requested to submit justification sheets containing much of the information developed during the survey, as well as identifying sponsors and partners and providing study cost estimates. When competing for dollars, one key for success will be maximized partnerships.

*When will the program begin?* In order to be fully implemented, Challenge 21 requires both funding and programmatic authority. The President's FY99 budget included \$25 million to initiate the program. Unfortunately, the Senate did not support the budget request; no word from the House yet. A provision for programmatic authority is being developed for inclusion in WRDA '98. This effort is proceeding well and should serve to better support a request for funds for FY00.



## 56th Meeting of the Chief of Engineer's Environmental Advisory Board (EAB)

*Cheryl A. Smith - CECW-PD*

In January 1998, LTG Joe Ballard charged the EAB to work with the Civil Works Directorate concerning Watershed Planning, which is to be the theme of a series of EAB meetings. The first full meeting on the topic, and the 56th meeting of the EAB, was hosted by the St. Paul District on 28-30 April 1998. A total of 85 people attended, representing the EAB (5), Headquarters (9), Divisions (12), Districts (38), IWR (5), WES (2), CRREL (1), USFWS (3), invited guests (7) and special interest groups (3). The St. Paul District did an excellent job in hosting the meeting and is to be highly commended! Thanks are extended to LTC William Breyfogle and his staff and particularly to Dave Koepsell, who served as the District's primary POC.

The purpose of the 56th Meeting of the EAB was to identify watershed planning issues and

options for the Corps to consider and address. The Board was requested to assist in the identification of what has worked well, what has not worked well, what has been inhibiting and what would help increase the effectiveness and efficiency of the watershed planning process. In addition, the Board was requested to assist in the categorization and prioritization of issues, according to type of problems and potential solutions. Finally, a strategy is to be developed which will establish and facilitate the Board's advisory role in the topic of watershed planning, as well as the conduct of future meetings. The findings and recommendations of the 56th meeting are to be reported at the 57th Meeting, which will be held in Washington, DC, during the week of 19-23 October 1998.



## Water Environment Federation (WEF) Conference

*Cheryl A. Smith, CECW-PD*

The theme of the WEF conference, held on 3-6 May 1998 was "Watershed Management:: Moving from Theory to Implementation". The conference offered a high quality technical program, in which a number of Corps representatives participated. Bob Brumbaugh (CEWRC-IWR-P), Amy Guise (CENAB-PL-P) and Jim Henderson (CEWES-EN-R) presented papers. Eugene Stakhiv (CEWRC-IWR-P) and Susan Ramos (CESPK-PPMD) participated on panels and Betty Campbell (CETEC-OD-TE) participated in the poster session. Bob Brumbaugh and I also served as moderators for several sessions. A few Districts were also able to send representatives as audience participants.

Two other highlights of the conference included the Opening General Session and Session 13c. Michael Davis, OASA (CW), was the keynote speaker during the opening session. His presentation concerned the Clean Water Action Plan. Mr. Davis also

participated in a panel discussion during this session. Session 13c was a panel discussion on the Challenge 21 Initiative. The session was well attended, with excellent presentations and good interaction between panelists and audience. Panelists included G. Edward Dickey (CECW-P, retired), Elden Gatwood (CESPL-PD), Leroy Crosby (CESAS-PD-P), Ron Page (NRCS), Gene Reetz (EPA) and Barry Tanning (The Council of State Governments). I moderated the session and Les Tong (CESPD-PD) assisted as co-moderator. All participants are to be commended for their efforts! ❖

## DEADLINE

The deadline for material for the July issue is 10 July 1998. ❖

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